Denver Field Ornithologists

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Recently I sent out emails asking you to join or renew. I have found out the the links which are supposed to take you to the sign-up page do not work. The error occurred at Mailer Lite, the company which sends out our email campaigns. Apparently the link is fixed now - https://dfobirds.org/dfo/membershipl.aspx - but you could also go directly to dfobirds.org in your browser and scroll down to Join or Renew Today. Thank you, and thanks VERY much if you've already renewed. Happy New Year.

Jim Esten, Web Admin

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Denver Field Ornithologists

Hello birders!

Please consider joining the Denver Filed Ornithologists. Annual membership dues make it possible for DFO to publish a newsletter, maintain a website, produce programs with engaging speakers and lead fantastic birding field trips. This past year we pivoted from in person programs to Zoom webinars. In 2021 we will introduce Zoom field trips and return to in-person gatherings as soon as it is safe to do so. Join us and become a better birder while doing your part to protect birds and their habitats.

DFO is a 501(c)(3), so your membership is tax deductible for 2020 IF YOU RENEW BEFORE DECEMBER 31st. As part of CARES act, tax filers who do not itemize their deductions are eligible to claim an "above the line" or "universal" charitable deduction of up to $300 on their federal tax return for the year 2020.

Join today by going to http://dfobirds.org/DFO/Membership.aspx where you can pay your dues through PayPal or by check and review your contact information. If you prefer, go to https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf and print the last page. Complete the form and mail with your check.

And why not add a donation of any amount to DFO's special funds. Learn more at https://dfobirds.org/DFO/Donations.aspx

Trouble or questions? Please contact us at membership@dfobirds.org.

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Register now for Partners in Flight: Foundation for Bird Conservation Action! DFO's Conservation Committee and Denver Audubon are co-sponsoring this webinar that features Arvind Panjabi, Avian Scientist with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies on Wed, Dec 16 at 7 PM. Panjabi works with Partners in Flight, a network of more than 150 organizations across the Western Hemisphere in land bird conservation science, research, planning and policy development. He will discuss Front Range bird species of concern and other conservation issues for the area. Register now at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3GykssM4TYKcVp9ewf0seg and you will receive a link to the Zoom webinar.

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The January 2021 issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available for viewing at: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. This month's news and features include:

+ Our DFO tribute to expert birder and expert human **Joe Roller**, a former president and board member of our club, known throughout Colorado's birding community for his great good humor and greater effect on everyone he met. Joe died far too soon, the day before Thanksgiving

+ DFO's plans to begin new, pandemic-safe field trips in 2021 with individual birding in the field and group fellowship afterwards in online social gatherings powered by the Zoom meeting platform

+ Conservation updates on the fate of future birding at Chico Basin Ranch as well as on the DFO Conservation Committee's many advocacy efforts in 2020 (with more on the horizon for 2021)

+ A new monthly feature for the new year, **12 Tips for '21**, with smart and easy ideas for any and all of us to do our part for birds and their habitat

+ A review of **Drew Lanham**'s inspiring talk at the DFO monthly evening program in November (via Zoom webinar) and a look ahead to a **special joint program Dec. 16** with Denver Audubon about a vital international North American bird database managed here in Colorado through the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. (To sign up, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3GykssM4TYKcVp9ewf0seg.)

Stay pandemic-safe, everyone, and happiest of the winter holidays to you as we welcome 2021 after a most challenging 2020! . . .

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Greetings! It's Membership Season at Denver Field Ornithologists.

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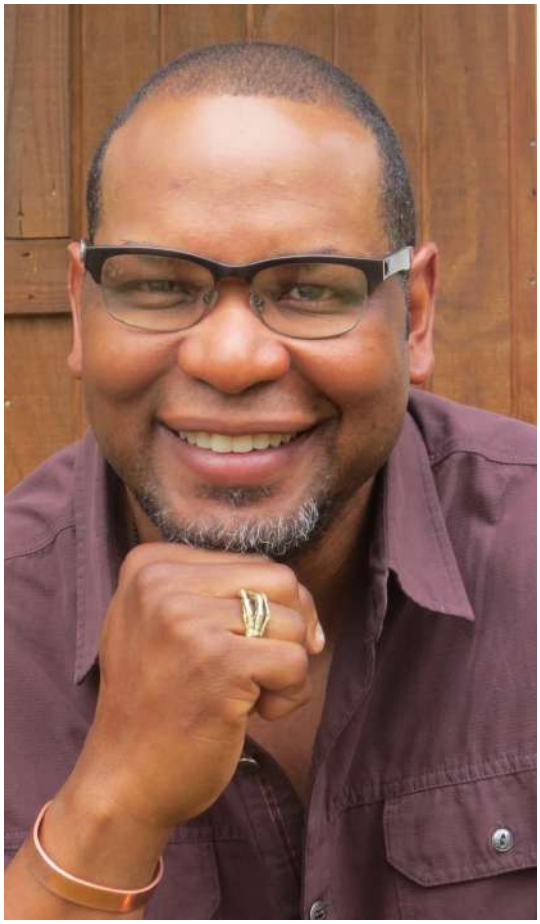

The featured speaker is Dr. J. Drew Lanham and the title of the talk is ***Coloring the Conservation Conversation***. You can register here for the November program via Zoom. *The program will begin at 7 PM on Monday, November 23, 2020.*

Drew Lanham is a professor of wildlife ecology at Clemson University and author of *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*. He will discuss what it means to embrace the full breadth of his African American heritage and his deep kinship to nature and adoration of birds. The convergence of ornithologist, college professor, poet, author and conservation activist blend to bring our awareness of the natural world and our moral responsibility for it forward in new ways. Candid by nature — and because of it — Lanham will examine how conservation must be a rigorous science and evocative art, inviting diversity and race to play active roles in celebrating our natural world.

The Book Bar in Denver is the event bookseller. To order a copy of The Home Place or to pre-order his new book, Sparrow Envy: Field Guide to Birds and Lesser Beasts, visit the Book Bar website.

Please note: this will be a webinar, not a meeting. Therefore you won't need a webcam or a microphone, just a computer, smartphone or tablet. To ease management of hundreds of people, we won't be able see you or hear you. You will be able to ask questions via text.

Enjoy

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We've just learned that today the State Land Board moved up its deadline for public comment on Chico Basin Ranch. **Because Wednesday is Veterans Day, all public comment related to Chico's approved uses is now due no later than Noon tomorrow, Nov. 10th.**

Our advice of yesterday about the message we need to send stands, and is repeated below. There will be a letter submitted from the DFO Conservation Committee, as before; but hearing from DFO members individually will amplify our impact. Thanks, all!

Susan Blansett, DFO Conservation Chair

As birders digest the possibility of no more convenient and inexpensive access to Chico Basin Ranch, another key step in planning for a new ranch lease is already near.

On **Thursday, Nov. 12**, the Colorado State Land Board is scheduled to vote on "approved" uses at the ranch such as cattle ranching and irrigated growing of feed crops. This vote also would include whether birding and other non-agricultural activities will remain among approved uses.

Aiken Audubon of Colorado Springs, National Audubon's nearest chapter to the ranch, is calling on concerned birders and others to urge the land board immediately in writing and emails to keep birding, bird banding and K-12 education (by individuals and birding groups like DFO and Aiken) as continuing and approved uses. **The deadline to comment is now tomorrow, Tuesday, Nov.**

10 at noon MST. The board's contact page for public comment is at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdHLoANsTkJyomSRsPJm5aNH5EA-2sA8h7RlM8Df_ESURzjSQ/viewform?gxids=7628.

"Birders are very light on the land, and are able to contribute valuable biological information to that which the banders provide," said **Linda Hodges**, conservation chair for Aiken. With every letter, "I would also include a plea for keeping the ranch intact," she added. That's because the land board also is considering whether to subdivide the 87,000-acre spread into three different ranching units for lease.

Finally, Hodges reminds us all to show our appreciation for the access to Chico that we birders have enjoyed over the years, as it's not a given. She asks that we urge the board not to set birding apart from the overall ranching operation under separate "layered leasing." To do so would likely make it financially impossible for nonprofit organizations like Aiken and DFO to manage birding access for the benefit of birds and birders. Ideally, we seek the ability to negotiate with ranch lessees directly on access

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The new issue of *The Lark Bunting* is now available for viewing at: https://dfobirds.org/News/LB.pdf. This month's news and features include:

+ Details about a new, pandemic-safe field trip concept DFO will test this week

+ A visit to Barr Lake SP in print AND on video via the YouTube channel of DFO's **Megan Miller** and her "Let's Go Birding" friends

+ A review of last month's Zoom program with old DFO friend **Chris Rurik** and details for joining this month's presentation* by birder and ecologist **J. Drew Lanham**, author of *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*

+ News about a favorite birding destination at risk and how YOU can help advocate NOW to preserve birder access

+ One birder's list of things to be grateful for in this season of thanks

*Sign up for Lanham's Nov. 23 evening program on Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I_Iluf3uS9qdbxQ64XAJww

Stay pandemic-safe, everyone. Good November birding, look for us again in December — and Happy Thanksgiving!

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Thanks so much for sharing your feedback with us about the recent DFO program featuring Kenn Kaufman. We are sorry you had trouble attending and wanted to let you know that a recording of the program can be found on the DFO website here:https://dfobirds.org/Programs/Past.aspx

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Dear DFO members and friends,

Over 500 people registered to attend the Denver Field Ornithologists monthly program on Sep 21 with Kenn Kaufman as the featured speaker. We were thrilled to bring a person of Kenn's stature to the birding community and we were delighted with the number of people who registered to attend. But, a number of folks who registered did not attend. We would like to find out if something about the registration process was the cause.

Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey **by Friday, Sep 25** and help us do a better job of bringing exciting speakers to you in the months to come.

You can find the survey here:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZH9QST6

Thanks in advance for your help!

DFO Communications and Outreach Committee

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